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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 12 March 1952

25X1 SUBJECT

1. Nanning-Chennankuan Railroad
2. Proposed Construction of Railroad, Nanning-Ch'inghsien

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Nanning-Chennankuan railway which was completed in October 1951 and officially opened to traffic on 7 November 1951 is routed from Nanning via Funan (107-54, 22-37), Ch'ungshan (107-33, 22-27), Mingchiang (107-11, 22-09) and P'inghsiang (106-44, 22-06) to Chennankuan. It crosses the Nanning River at Yaot'ou, less than two miles from Nanning, by a wooden bridge supported by steel piles. The line runs over the middle of the bridge and there is room for pedestrians to walk on either side. Sentries are posted at both ends of the bridge and up to the end of November the public had not been allowed on it. A model of this bridge and of the whole line was displayed in Nanning at the inauguration ceremony. The river is about 200 yards wide at this point.
2. There is a combined passenger and freight train each day in both directions between Nanning and Chennankuan. In addition, several military trains are operated each week but they do not usually stop at Nanning. Tickets can be bought at Nanning provided passengers are in possession of a valid travel permit or travelling traders license.
3. The gauge of the line is not known but it appears to be more than a meter.¹ The nearest point between the Indochina Railway and the Chennankuan terminus is Dong Dang, which is connected by a good motor road. It is not known whether any work is in progress to connect the two lines, which are believed to be of different gauges.
4. On 13 December the National Defense Reconstruction Research Committee of South China sent a party of ten people, including YANG Ting-wei (楊定衛), head of

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-2-

the committee; TING Lin (丁 霖), inspector; HUANG Chen-kuang (黃 鎮光), engineer; SU Ching-hua (蘇 靜華), of a survey unit; and Pu-k'o-k'o-ssu-chi (布 克 柯 斯 基), a Soviet adviser, from Canton to Nanning. They will consult with experts of the Kwangsi Military District Command on the proposed construction of a railway from Nanning to Ch'inhsien (108-37, 21-58).²

5. The railway will follow the Nanning-Tat'ang (108-22, 22-22)-Hsiaotung (108-35, 22-11)-Maopo (茅 坡)-Ch'inhsien highway, a distance of 140 kilometers. About six months will be required to complete the construction.

25X1

1. [] Comment. [] the extension is a single track, standard gauge railroad, with approximately 20 stations between Nanning and P'inghsiang. The service between the two points is slow, taking an estimated 17 hours (including stops) at an average speed of about 15 kilometers per hour. 25X1

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2. [] Comment. A Chinese press dispatch from Hong Kong on 13 December reported that the Chinese Communists were building a new railroad from Nanning to Yamhsien (Ch'inhsien). It further stated that the new railroad would facilitate the shipment of supplies to Indochina, especially those going by sea.

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